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12 September 1963



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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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Cuba: (Fidel Castro has displayed a growing sympathy for the Chinese Communist ideological position in the dispute with Moscow.)

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[redacted] Castro's remarks made obvious his affinity for the Chinese position. [redacted] Castro's predilection for the Chinese side is also evident in the quantities of Peiping's propaganda circulating within his developing political machine, the United Party of the Socialist Revolution (PURS).

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(Castro confided [redacted] that the "real" leaders of the PURS are men whose personal loyalty he is confident about. The "conventional" Cuban Communists, he declared, are more responsive to Moscow than to himself, and have no power in the party.)

(In speaking of Panama, Castro stated that the tempo of revolutionary action there must be intensified. He urged that Panamanians who have received training in Cuba be directed to launch a campaign of sabotage similar to that underway in Venezuela. He said that while he cannot risk sending arms directly to Panama, he would be willing to supply "any quantity" of US dollars necessary for buying arms.)

(Quiescent for many years, Communist activity in Panama has recently increased somewhat, apparently because it is receiving more sophisticated direction than formerly. However, it is still very far from revolutionary in tempo.)

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Argentina: (President-elect Illia, who takes office on 12 October, has favorably impressed Ambassador McClintock and representatives of several US firms.)

(After a recent conversation, Ambassador McClintock believes that Illia will not take precipitate action against either the US-Argentine Investment Guarantee Agreement of 1959 (IGA) or the oil contracts with US firms. Illia has assured US businessmen that the oil companies holding such contracts would be consulted and that some new understandings might be worked out.)

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(Regarding the IGA, Illia said he was amenable to consultation, but left the impression Argentina would eventually abrogate the agreement. A portion of the agreement has been attacked by Illia's party as a derogation of sovereignty and a slight to national pride.)

(Illia stressed that foreign and domestic capital would be given fair and equal treatment and that Argentina has never defaulted on an international debt.)

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(US investment in Argentina now exceeds one billion dollars.)

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USSR--Outer Space: (There are indications that Moscow may be interested in reaching some agreement with the US on outer space as a further step to keep alive the "Moscow spirit" created by the test-ban treaty.)

(Soviet UN delegate Federenko recently indicated privately that agreement might be reached on the basis of "reasonable compromise and mutual concession." He repeated the Soviet position, however, that any agreement must include a prohibition of the use of earth satellites for reconnaissance or "war propaganda" purposes.)

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(Federenko's deputy, on the other hand, indicated some flexibility in this position, specifically on the war propaganda issue.)

(Foreign Minister Gromyko told Ambassador Kohler on 10 September that Moscow agrees in principle with the US concept of joint cooperation in outer space projects. He added that he was prepared to discuss this subject during his visit to the US this month to attend the UN General Assembly.)

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*Venezuela: (Left-wing terrorism and military plotting against the government are increasing in anticipation of the presidential election, which must legally be held by 1 December.)

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[redacted] the Venezuelan Communist Party has begun a new campaign of "destructive activities" which is to be sustained through the end of November. The object of the campaign is to create as much confusion as possible in the hope that this would goad the military to action against Betancourt.

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(The US Embassy in Caracas indicates that although rumors of military coup plotting are rife, the unrest among the officer corps lacks effective leadership, and there is no consensus about what should be done. Many officers fear, however, that if the election were held, it would produce a weak government supported only by a bare plurality, which would bring fresh gains to the Communists and their extremist allies.)

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South Korea: Antiregime university students in Seoul are considering whether to stage a political rally about 13 September to protest the failure of the civilian opposition to unite. The present atmosphere of tension on South Korean campuses is such that further disturbances may occur if a "spark" is applied. The organizers are aware that progovernment students may capture the demonstration.

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Jordan-Egypt: King Husayn is continuing his efforts to arrange a rapprochement with Nasir. A pro-UAR newspaper editor from Jerusalem has been sent to Cairo to assure Nasir that Husayn sincerely wants to improve relations. The King apparently hopes that Nasir now will be more receptive than he has been. Both leaders distrust the Baathists in Syria and Iraq and Jordan recently demonstrated "nonalignment" by establishing relations with the USSR.

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Chile-France: An official of the Chilean Foreign Office has informed the US chargé that contrary to an earlier Chilean press report, Chile is not breaking commercial relations with France. He said Chile has as yet received no official démarche from France concerning Santiago's attitude toward French nuclear testing. The official added that Chile, nevertheless, remains concerned and hopes that France will either cancel the test series or hold it elsewhere than in the Pacific.

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